

The amendment would also bolster the SBA's technical assistance programs, and will improve export financing programs so that small businesses have access to capital needed to support export sales.

Small businesses can survive, diversify, and compete effectively in the international marketplace by developing an export business. But, as I mentioned, too few small businesses are expanding into international markets. This amendment will help small business owners take the crucial steps of attracting foreign tourists and finding international buyers for their goods and services.

This investment could yield tremendous returns for our economy. The United States spends just one-sixth of the international average among developed countries in promoting small businesses exports. Every additional dollar spent on export promotion results in a fortyfold increase in exports, according to a World Bank study.

As we work to promote tourism in the United States, we cannot overlook small businesses. An investment in small business exporting assistance is an investment in our economy. This amendment will ensure that this legislation helps small businesses stay competitive, helps them grow, and speeds the recovery of our economy as a whole. I respectfully ask all of my Senate colleagues to support this vital amendment.

Mr. President, my amendment No. 1337 to the "Tourism Promotion Act of 2009 is a commonsense amendment that would ensure that small businesses are properly represented on the new "Corporation for Travel Promotion Board" and would clarify that small businesses, as defined by the Small Business Administration, are exempt from the annual assessment created by this act.

As ranking member of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am keenly aware of the critical role that small businesses play as our Nation's primary job creators. Robust tourism is vital to the success of countless small businesses, and I see no better way to improve this bill than by ensuring that our Nation's small businesses have a seat at the table as our tourism policy is revamped. One of the more vital components of this act is the creation of the travel promotion board, which includes 11 key representatives from different industries involved in tourism, and will be tasked with promoting travel to America. Unfortunately, the underlying bill does not require a member of that board specifically represent small businesses. My amendment will correct this oversight.

Travel and tourism generates approximately \$1.3 trillion in economic activity each year in the United States and it also supports 8.3 million travel-related jobs. According to the Department of Commerce, receipts from international trade and tourism were

more than \$142 billion last year, and there is no doubt that small businesses were a vital part of this statistic. In fact, they represent nearly the entire tourism industry. More than 90 percent of employers in the tourism industry are small businesses; and more specifically, 95 percent of travel agencies, 84 percent of tour operating companies, 93 percent of sightseeing bus companies, and 99 percent of souvenir shops are owned by small entrepreneurs. It is therefore imperative that this act guarantee that small businesses are provided with a representative on the Corporation for Travel Promotion Board.

Tourism is a vital source of growth for these small businesses and this act will provide critical assistance to entrepreneurs struggling during these difficult economic times. This amendment will improve the underlying bill by ensuring that small businesses continue to play a key role in bolstering and strengthening our nation's essential tourism industry. For this reason I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.R. 2346, the supplemental appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2346) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

(The conference report is printed in the proceedings of the House in the RECORD of Friday June 12, 2009.)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send to the desk a cloture motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2346, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2009.

Daniel K. Inouye, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Edward E. Kaufman, Christopher J. Dodd, Tom Carper, Mark L. Pryor, Tim Johnson, Jon Tester, Mary L. Landrieu, Byron L. Dorgan, Herb Kohl, Tom Harkin, Mark Begich, Ben Nelson, Dianne Feinstein.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINORITY CONTRACTORS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to call the attention of the Senate to the 40th anniversary of the National Association of Minority Contractors, NAMC. NAMC is a national organization that has gone to great lengths over the last 40 years in helping minority contractors realize the American dream. Additionally, NAMC has aided contractors across the United States by fostering relationships and building bridges in the construction industry that have helped minorities to remain competitive. Currently, NAMC has over 5,000 memberships in all 50 States and the District of Columbia.

NAMC was established as a nonprofit organization in 1969, in order to provide education to African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans employed as construction contractors. This magnificent organization has helped to ensure equal opportunity employment and procurement opportunities in all areas of this industry. NAMC has led the way in the integration of various ethnic groups, creeds, and colors in the construction industry. We recognize this organization's hard work to initiate and operate training programs for people desiring employment and procurement in the building trades.

Thanks to the fine leadership of the local board of the Silver State's NAMC's Chapter, NAMC is making a successful transition to green building. NAMC has been ensuring that its members certify in green building by involving them with Green Advantage and the U.S. Green Building Council. It is specifically this type of program that will help America become more environmentally friendly and responsible and lead us to an improved quality of life.

The Nevada Chapter is one of 22 chapters across the United States. I commend the National Association of Minority Contractors for their 40 years of support to the minority community and to the affiliates in Nevada and around the United States. It is through